



Quick Facts: Wildfire and Organic Farms

Wildfire not only threatens Washington crops, it may jeopardize the organic status of your sites. Chemical fire retardants, if dropped on an organic orchard or field, are considered an application of a prohibited material per USDA organic regulations. Minimize risk by following these three steps to maintain organic integrity:

Report Application

If you have been impacted by the application of fire retardants, please contact WSDA Organic Program as soon as possible so that we can offer technical assistance.

organic@agr.wa.gov
(360) 902-1805

Adjust Site Boundaries

Organic sites which have been partially sprayed may be reassessed and new borders may be created. WSDA Organic Program will send an inspector out to assist in evaluating new borders for any sites that have been exposed to chemical fire retardants.

Divert Crops

Fire retardants are a prohibited material. Crops grown in an area where fire retardants have been applied must not be represented as organic for 36 months. Crops harvested during this transition must be diverted to nonorganic markets.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

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Your safety and the safety of your family is the first priority. We will work with you to offer technical assistance when you are ready. Keep the following in mind:

- ♦ Crops grown on affected land must not be represented as organic for 36 months after an application of a fire retardant.
- ♦ The application of fire retardants by fire suppression personnel will not result in adverse action against your farm unless you fail to divert affected crops to the conventional market.
- ♦ Unannounced or surveillance inspections may take place to observe any concerns about land in potential fire zones after safety concerns are cleared.

For more information, see the WSDA Agriculture and Natural Disasters web page:

<https://agr.wa.gov/services/emergency-management/disasters>

or contact WSDA Organic Program with any questions.



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